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## Superscientist

**Ireland knows how to make science fun. The Resistors! is an animated TV series aimed at primary school children in which four young superheroes must use their scientific knowledge to defeat evil hackers who have taken over a post-apocalyptic Ireland known as Cybernia. In a kind of Blade Runner meets The Incredibles, Sonia and Amber (the two scantily clad female role models) and their friends Luc and Dig draw on their unique scientific powers to rescue a complacent and ignorant population that has "turned its back on science". An accompanying website introduces children to the science behind the superheroes. Click below for details.**

### Let's party!

Partij voor de Dieren has just had its first two MPs elected to the Dutch parliament. Literally translated, that comes out as Party for the Animals—or big trouble for anyone in the wrong line of business. In the Dutch case, this appears to be limited to bioindustry, food shops and other obviously cruel people. So far, the party has not turned its attention to research. Perhaps they just haven't had time yet. But with VIP backing from prominent authors, artists and others, they have the clout to make a difference.

But if the animal experiment antis thought they had reasons to be cheerful this month, they were badly mistaken. Peter Singer is the philosopher who published *Animal Liberation*, the terrorists' bible, in 1975. In a TV interview broadcast this week, he says experiments on primates are justified if there's no alternative and the suffering has been minimised—exactly the position of the researchers themselves. It's a devastating blow to the credibility of the antis—obviously great news. But spare a thought for Singer in passing. Why has it taken him 30 years to put the record straight?

### Sign of the times

David White, director of innovation policy for DG Enterprise, plunged into the audience at the INNOVA conference in Valencia in the hope of demonstrating how important innovation was across member states, old and new. But his efforts were in vain. Finally, looking a bit flustered, he asked, "Is there ANYONE here who is NOT from Sweden?"

### Admini-frustrating

European Defence Agency chief executive Nick Witney must be feeling the heat after the UK (aka the Ministry of Defence) refused to sign up to a three year plan to increase the EDA's budget earlier this month on the grounds that the agency couldn't articulate why it needed the extra money. "It is really hard to understand why the MoD doesn't have any confidence in the agency," said a somewhat nonplussed French source. "Witney came to the agency from the MoD where he had held a number of senior positions".

**Other sites** [The Resistors!](#)

## Trinity College Dublin

**Message** If you have any comments on this new service, kindly email Oonagh Kinsman at the address below. All feedback is welcome.

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