MOVIES

Mission: Stop Scientology: Germans youths picketed cinemas throughout their country on Thursday to protest Tom Cruise's movie "Mission: Impossible" because the American actor is a member of the Scientology religion. The protests—organized by the normally placid youth wing of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union—are a token of the growing political pressure against Scientology in Germany, where recruiting has been active. The pickets came after Paul Stefan Mauz, a Christian Democrat member of parliament, claimed that Cruise was a "high-ranking" Scientologist and that, as the leading actor and co-producer of "Mission: Impossible," he was likely to swell the coffers of the group. The parliament member is trying to persuade the German government to restrict subsidies to cinemas that show films starring known Scientologists, which would include John Travolta.

Little Shop of Mars Horrors: B-movie king Roger Corman ("The Little Shop of Horrors," "Wasp Woman") plans to capitalize on this week's NASA announcement about the possibility of life on Mars. Corman, who rushed "War of the Satellites" into theaters in 1957 just 10 weeks after the Russians sent up their first satellite, has already begun work on "Mars Lives." Plans call for filming to begin in November on the science-fiction thriller, which Corman says will have a \$20-million budget and be heavy on special effects.