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Lakeshia R. Legette* (l1egette@jcsu.edu), Johnson C. Smith University, Department of Natural Sciences & Mathematics, 100 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216. *Maximal groups in the Stone-Cech Compactification the free semigroup.*

Given any idempotent, p , in a discrete semigroup (S) , there is a largest group $H(p)$ with p as its identity. It will be shown that it is consistent that if (S) is the free semigroup or free group on countably many generators, there exist idempotents in $\beta(S)$ whose maximal group is a singleton. The same conclusion holds if (S) is the set of finite subsets of ω under the operation of union. (Received September 14, 2008)