Ruby master - Bug #6723

Global variable scoping problem.
07/12/2012 07:50 AM - iblue (Markus Fenske)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignee:</td>
<td>drbrain (Eric Hodel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target version:</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruby -v:</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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**Description**

This issue exists from 1.8 to ruby-head.

See the following example:

```ruby
def foobar
  "Foobar".match(/\*/)
  puts $1.inspect
end

foobar
puts $1.inspect
puts global_variables.inspect
```

This demonstrates that $1 does not behave like a global variable. However it's listed by Kernel.global_variables as a global variable. And it's named like a global variable.

This leads to some confusion sometimes. See for example [http://stackoverflow.com/q/11441782/773690](http://stackoverflow.com/q/11441782/773690)

It may not be a good idea to fix this inconsistent naming, because it may break several things. However the fact that $1 and friends are not global variables should be clearly documented. And by the way: Ruby != Perl.

Or maybe make $1 a real global variable?

**Associated revisions**

Revision a10f6137 - 07/24/2012 09:49 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

- re.c (rb_reg_s_last_match): Update $~ to reference Regexp documentation about "special global variables". [Bug #6723]

```
git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@36526 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e
```

Revision 36526 - 07/24/2012 09:49 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

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Revision 36526 - 07/24/2012 09:49 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

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History

#1 - 07/12/2012 12:22 PM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)
- Target version set to 2.0.0
- Category set to core
- Assignee set to matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

#2 - 07/12/2012 12:39 PM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)
- Category changed from core to doc
- Status changed from Open to Assigned
- Assignee changed from matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto) to drbrain (Eric Hodel)
- ruby -v changed from ruby 1.9.3p194 to -

#3 - 07/25/2012 06:49 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)
- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

This issue was solved with changeset r36526. Markus, thank you for reporting this issue. Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated. May Ruby be with you.

#4 - 07/25/2012 06:50 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)
These are described as "Special global variables" and are described as "thread-local and method-local" in the Regexp documentation. I updated a reference to them in re.c, but the existing documentation should be sufficient.