Subject: Best All around video card out there?
Posted by mrpirate on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 14:12:13 GMT

First off, the Radeon 9200SE is total shit. 64-bit memory bus, non-DX9, etc.

The GeForce 6800 (Kudos to Nvidia for dropping the "FX" rubbish) is currently the fastest video card out there by far, with 16 pipelines. At 11000+ marks in 3DMark 2003, it's twice as fast as the "current" top-of-the-line cards. The R420 or Radeon X800 Pro looks like it will be an absolute beast of a card when it comes out (supposedly April 26th). It is rumoured to have a 600 MHz core, with 16 pipelines as well (The NV40 or GeForce 6800 is only 400 MHz, with 1100 MHz memory). Both new cards have 6 vertex engines. The NV40 contains about 220 million transistors, and the R420 is rumoured to have between 160-180 million transistors.

The best card ever made, considering value and performance, was the Radeon 9500/Radeon 9500 Pro. Built on the same R300 core as the Radeon 9700 Pro, someone who knew what they were doing could easily mod one of them to 9700 speeds.
Ultimately, core speeds cannot entirely compensate for the fact that the 9600XT is just a Radeon 8500 in disguise.