When I talked to Rakesh Agrawal, the outgoing TCDE Chair, he began by telling me that his foremost accomplishment as Chair was to persuade David Lomet to edit the Bulletin. David has done an excellent job, developing LaTeX tools to put the Bulletin on line and make its publication a (relatively) straightforward process. He has also changed the format of the Bulletin by having his associate editors each choose a topic and invite articles from the best researchers and practitioners in that area to write on that topic. This has made the Data Engineering Bulletin a more readable and more interesting and more important publication than many other, supposedly more prestigious journals. David has agreed to continue as editor for at least one more year. I would like to thank him for his work in this area.

In addition to publishing the Bulletin, the TCDE has developed an association with the VLDB (Very Large Databases) conference. I believe Rakesh would name this as his second most important contribution. Because of his hard work in establishing connections with the VLDB community, the VLDB conference has agreed to post the "in-cooperation with IEEE" status on its publications and to give IEEE members the lowest registration fees for the conference, the usual agreement for "in-cooperation" status. I would like to thank Rakesh both for enlisting David as editor and for establishing the VLDB conference connection.

The new TCDE Executive committee will try to build on the accomplishments of the previous one. We will try to maintain the quality of the Bulletin and the association with VLDB. We have begun building ties with the ACM SIGMOD. I have created a new position on the TCDE Executive Committee—SIGMOD liason. Meral Ozsoyoglu, the VP of ACM SIGMOD has agreed to take the position and has been designated "IEEE liason" within SIGMOD. The new SIGMOD executive committee under Rick Snodgrass seems more than amenable to forging new relationships and cooperating on projects.

We have also begun a WWW presence. Our new web page is at http://www/ccs.neu.edu/groups/IEEE/tcde

The new area coordinators, Svein-Olaf Hvasshovd in Europe, Masaru Kitsuregawa in Asia, and Ron Sacks-Davis in Australia have been asked to make area web pages as well. We will post these web page addresses when they are ready. Our new Vice-President, Erich Neuhold, has indicated a special interest in web-based activities. Please feel free to communicate with Erich or with others on the TCDE Executive Committee about suggestions for our web pages.

I would also like to thank Tracy Woods and Ronald Waxman of the IEEE for their patience in these first few months while I have been getting up to speed on TC procedures.