



- 205,000 SQUARE FEET OF FLEXIBLE CONVENTION SPACE
- 38,000-SQUARE-FOOT BALLROOM ADDED
- 20% INCREASE IN EVENT ATTENDANCE
- 108% AVERAGE BLOCK



## OUR NUMBERS MAKE SURE YOU CAN REACH YOURS

In September 2019, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is expanding the venue that consistently delivers attendance-increasing events of all sizes. More space, more amenities and more first-class service means that your convention will be even more incredible.

[KalahariMeetings.com](#)

Call 877.780.6440  
to learn more



POCONO MOUNTAINS, PA



**Barron's**

[CES 2020 Is Just a Few Days Away. Here's What to Expect in Las Vegas.](#)

**Seeking Alpha**

[Comcast Looks To Peacock Service To Create Long-Term Value](#)

**Axios**

[Former HBO chief inks exclusive 5-year deal with Apple](#)

**The Verge**

[Movies are already disappearing from Disney+](#)

**Business Wire**

[CTA to Host Three U.S. Cabinet Secretaries at CES 2020](#)

**Associated Press**

[Poverty grew in almost half of Pennsylvania counties despite strong national economy](#)

The biggest tech news yesterday is that the former Google human rights chief says he was "sidelined" over the proposed, censored Chinese search engine known as "Dragonfly." Ross LaJeunesse, the executive, knew how to ensure his story would make an impact. He spoke with The Verge's Colin Lecher and many other media outlets, published a Medium post with frankly shocking details, and dominated tech news all day. Good. His story deserves attention.

An idea that I've been kicking around as we prepare for season two of the Land of the Giants podcast (about Google, naturally) is that until very recently, Google was a special kind of naive. It is a powerful, massive company that used to see itself as a utopian collective which just so happened to make oodles of cash.

If you get annoyed that Google has pivoted its way through launching and killing a dozen messaging apps, that open, freewheeling culture is why.

That kind of naiveté would be endearing if it wasn't also so dangerous. An organization as powerful as Google that isn't willing to admit its size, influence, and power is bound to stumble into problems. I think Dragonfly was one result of that disconnect.

Even if you could believe that Google could have made a moral case for Dragonfly (and I'm leaving that judgment for another time), the telling thing is that Google didn't try — it was not openly discussed with employees like so many other Google products.

Here's an important paragraph from Colin Lecher's story on LaJeunesse:

"As Google pushed for deals in authoritarian Saudi Arabia and launched the Google Center for Artificial Intelligence in Beijing, LaJeunesse says, he pushed for a company-wide human rights program that would bring new oversight to product launches. But Google rebuffed the idea, and eventually brought in a colleague to oversee policy issues related to Dragonfly."

Assuming LaJeunesse's account is accurate, there are any number of motivations you could ascribe to these decisions. But I want to home in on just one: I think that dealing forthrightly with the Dragonfly decision in a more traditional, open, "Googley" way would have forced the entire company to contend with the uncomfortable truth that it is a massive, geopolitical entity. It would have popped the bubble of Google's self-image.

Well, it popped anyway. Which means that Google is a company without a clear identity anymore. And the truth is that it was never as defined as it should have been in the first place. The old one — "Don't be Evil" — didn't scale, to borrow a classic Silicon Valley phrase.

The operative verb in "Don't be Evil" is "to be." You can't live up to "Don't be Evil" if you don't know what you are in the first place.

I don't think that the massive size of Google fully accounts for the things that LaJeunesse experienced, but I do think it's an important factor. Almost exactly a month ago I published an essay I titled "Google's Third Era," pegged to the news that Google CEO Sundar Pichai was also becoming Alphabet's CEO as Larry Page and Sergey Brin stepped back. Here's what I wrote then:

"If the first era of Google was developing the technology, and the second era was growing to a massive scale, the third era is contending with the effects of that scale. That reckoning isn't happening because the founders formalized their already reduced roles by handing over the CEO title. It's happening because both internally and externally, we don't know how to deal with a company as big and powerful as Google."

It's troubling to think that as a society we don't know how to deal with institutions as large and powerful as Google (or Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Microsoft). It's even more troubling to think that nobody inside Google knows how to contend with Google's size, either.

Google's old mantra was about defining itself by saying what it it wouldn't be. Now, Google has to figure out what it will be. – *The Verge*

