People who don't know enough html/css to follow standards have no place creating websites without a WYSIWYG editor... These are the same people who create those fuck ugly myspace layouts with absolutely no color coordination.

If standards weren't followed you would have websites that only work in one browser and no others. Maybe you don't see the big deal on websites so I'll try to show a similar example, take IRC since that's popular with gamers.
How would you like it if you had to scrap mIRC or whatever else you use and download a new IRC client JUST because one IRCd developer decided to not follow standards? Standards are made to be followed. mIRC will work the same on any IRC network you connect to because the developers respected and followed the standards set. Web browsers should display the same on any website you connect to but they don't because of everyones' lack of following the standards.

And it's not just about how it displays either, there are other things to consider.
Blind people rely on their computer reading the code from the website and relaying the appropriate information through voice/speakers. Websites without standards will relay a lot of useless information that doesn't make any sense.
Mobile devices are being used to view websites a lot more these days. They need very very very perfect coding if you have a lot on your site.
There's more things but are less important.

The link that Aircraftkiller posted is good news. The Opera developers are getting serious about following standards and the other browsers should start following their example.