Query of Queries Select NULL Error

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I love Query of Queries. It frequently saves me a lot of time and trouble. Yesterday, however, I ran into a bug in the feature that caused a bit of heartache.

I needed to join two queries with a UNION. The first query had a date field that I needed to use. In order to get the UNION to work, I needed to include the same column in the second query. In that query, however, I had no date.

I run into this scenario from time to time in UNION queries with a database and it is easy to solve. I just write NULL AS ColumnName and continue about my business.

With Query of Queries, however, that didn't work. It returned an error stating:

Encountered "NULL. Incorrect Select List, Incorrect select column,

Apparently ColdFusion was looking for a column named "NULL" instead of treating it as a SQL keyword for the NULL value.

I wrote some code to reproduce the problem with the cfbookclub datasource that comes with ColdFusion:

```
<cfquery name="qBooks" datasource="cfbookclub">
SELECT   *
FROM   books
</cfquery>
<cfquery name="qBooks" dbtype="query">
SELECT   BookID,Title,Genre,BookImage
FROM   qBooks
WHERE   Genre = 'Fiction'
UNION
SELECT   BookID,Title,Genre,NULL AS BookImage
FROM   qBooks
WHERE   Genre = 'Non-fiction'
</cfquery>
```

In this example, I could have replaced NULL with '' and that would have fixed the problem. When I try to do that with a date, however, I get an error about a datatype mismatch.

I was able to hack around the problem, but I wish I didn't have to do so.

So, if you ever see this error, that is the problem.